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Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number appearing below.


Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 11, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-19 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Offset paper for offset printing wherein **[which is characterized in that]** a coating layer **[containing]**comprising an inorganic surface preparation agent **[mainly]** comprising silica sol or colloidal silica is provided on base paper for offset printing. **[(Embodiments 1 to 3)]**

2. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 1, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic preparation agent **[contains]**comprises an inorganic pigment. **[(Embodiment 4)]**

3. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 2, **[which is characterized in that, in the inorganic surface preparation agent, an addition]** wherein the ratio of the inorganic pigment to the inorganic surface preparation agent is 5 to 50wt.%. **[(Embodiments 1 to 4)]**

4. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 2 **[or Claim 3]**, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic pigment is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, calcium carbonate **[or]**and white carbon. **[(Embodiment 5 and 6)]**

5. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in any one]** of Claim[s] 2 **[to 4]**, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent **[contains]**further comprises a surface-sizing agent. **[(Embodiment 7)]**

6. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 5, **[which is characterized in that a weight]**wherein the ratio of the surface-sizing agent **[in the inorganic surface preparation agent]**to the colloidal silica or silica sol is 5 to 30wt.% **[to colloidal silica or silica sol]**. **[(Embodiment 7)]**

7. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim 6, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the surface-sizing agent is selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylic acid copolymer, alkyd resin, styrene-maleic acid copolymer **[or]**and olein-maleic acid copolymer. **[(Embodiments 8 to 10)]**

8. (Amended) The offset paper **[as claimed in]**of Claim[s] 5 **[to 7]**, **[which is characterized in that]**wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent **[contains]**comprises 5 to

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40 parts by weight of titanium oxide to 100 parts by weight of the colloidal silica or silica sol.  
 [(Embodiment 11)]

9. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in any one] of Claim[s] 2 [to 8], [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent [contains]comprises an organic binder. [(Embodiment 12)]

10. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 1, [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent [contains]comprises an inorganic salt. [(Embodiment 13)]

11. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic salt is sodium sulfate or sodium nitrate. [(Embodiments 13 to 15)]

12. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim [11]10, [which is characterized in that]wherein [an]the addition ratio of the inorganic salt is 5 to 250 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the colloidal silica or silica sol. [(Embodiments 10 to 12)]

13. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]further comprising a surface-sizing agent[ is contained]. [(Embodiment 16)]

14. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 13, [which is characterized in that]wherein the surface-sizing agent is selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylic acid copolymer, alkyd resin, styrene-maleic acid, [or]and olefin-maleic acid. [(Embodiments 16 to 20)]

15. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]further comprising an organic binder[ is contained]. [(Embodiments 23 and 24)]

16. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 15, [which is characterized in that]wherein the organic binder is oxidized starch or cationic polyacrylamide. [(Embodiments 21 and 22)]

17. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in]of Claim 10, [which is characterized in that]further comprising an organic binder and a surface-sizing agent[ are contained]. [(Embodiment 15)]

18. (Amended) The offset paper [as claimed in any one] of Claim[s]10 [to 17], [which is characterized in that]wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent [contains]comprises an organic binder, a surface-sizing agent and titanium oxide; and wherein [that a]the ratio of the

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titanium oxide is 5 to 40 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the solid content of the colloidal silica or silica sol. [(Embodiments 2 to 6)]

19. (Amended) [Newsprint]The offset paper [for offset printing as claimed in]of Claim[s] 1 [to 18], [which is]wherein the base paper for offset printing is a newsprint paper having basis weight [within the limits of]from about 37 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 45 g/m<sup>2</sup>.